

Message Text

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ACTION AEC-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 IO-14 ISO-00 L-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCI-06 SCEM-02 AECE-00

DRC-01 /114 W

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P R 212028Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8894

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

UNCLAS MEXICO 8713

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IAEA, TECH

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLY FOR MEXICAN POWER REACTOR

REF: A) STATE 220032

B) MEXICO 8620

1. FOLLOWING ARE RESULTS EMBREP CONVERSATION WITH INEN DG
ALBA LATE NOVEMBER 19 (EMBASSY CLOSED 20TH, GOM HOLIDAY):

2. RE PARA 1A OF REFTTEL A):

A) ALBA NOTED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DATE FIRST CORE CHARGE NEEDED
AND DATE ENRICHED FUEL MUST BE PROVIDED TO GE FOR FUEL ELEMENT
FABRICATION. THIS POINT NOT CLEAR IN REFTTEL.

B) DR. CARLOS VELEZ OF INEN NATIONAL NUCLEAR CENTER AT SALAZAR,
WHO IN CHARGE POWER REACTOR PROJECT PROGRAMMING, ADVISED EMBASSY
THAT THERE MAY BE SOME SLIPPAGE ON DATE FIRST CALCULATED FOR
FIRST CORE, I.E. FROM JUNE-SEPTEMBER 1976 TO BEGINNING 1977.
HOWEVER, AFTER CHECKING AGAIN WITH CFE NOVEMBER 21, HE STATED
THAT SINCE THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL DECISION RE SLIPPAGE
OF DATES, IT MORE PRUDENT ADHERE TO DATE PREVIOUSLY
DECIDED: THE ENRICHED FUEL NECESSARY FOR FIRST CORE CHARGE
SHOULD BE AT LAGUNA VERDE (NOT NECESSARILY IN REACTOR) ON OCTOBER

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1, 1976. DATE FOR PROVIDING UF6 TO GE FOR FABRICATION FUEL ELEMENTS

WOULD BE EIGHT MONTHS PRIOR, TO BE EXACT: FIRST 1/3 ON 1 MARCH;
SECOND 1/3 ON 1 APRIL AND LAST 1/3 ON 1 MAY 1976.

C) PURSUANT EMBREP REQUEST, VELEZ WILL PROVIDE CALENDAR OF
SIGNIFICANT DATES ON TOTAL OPERATION SO THAT USAEC, IAEA AND
GE MAY HAVE THIS INFO FOR PLANNING PURPOSES.

3. RE PARA B REFTEL A):

A) ALBA ADVISED THAT EXCAVATION WORK AND CONSTRUCTION PRESENTLY
UNDER WAY AT REACTOR SITE IS FOR RELATED CIVIL ENGINEERING
WORKS AND BUILDINGS WHICH OF NO CONCERN TO INEN (EMBREP UNDERSTANDS
WAREHOUSES, ACCESS ROADS, ETC.)

B) IN DECEMBER INEN WILL GIVE CFE AUTHORIZATION TO EXCAVATE
FOR BUILDING TO HOUSE CONTAINER VESSEL. INEN UNDERSTANDS THAT
CFE WILL START THIS EXCAVATION IN MARCH 1974.

C) CONSTRUCTION OF THE REACTOR BUILDING ITSELF CURRENTLY
SCHEDULED TO START IN SEPTEMBER 1974.

D) AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, CFE GAVE GE (JUNE 1972) CARTA
PODER FOR FIRST UNIT. THIS IS MORE THAN A LETTER OF INTENT
BECAUSE IT INVOLVES COMMITMENTS ON BOTH SIDES, BUT NOT THE
SAME AS A CONTRACT. LATTER BEING DELAYED IN NEGOTIATION OF
THIRD PARTY RESPONSIBILITY, EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS. THIS POINT
BEING CHECKED FURTHER WITH GE OF MEXICO. CFE HAS ALSO
GIVEN GE A CARTA PODER FOR SECOND UNIT OF LAGUNA VERDE COMPLEX.

E) IN ADDITION, GOM HAS OPTION FROM GE ON FIRST, SECOND AND
THIRD CHARGES FOR BOTH REACTORS.

4. RE AMENDMENT US ATOMIC ENERGY ACT:

ALBA EXPRESSED PLEASURE CONFIRMATION THAT PROPOSED AMENDMENT
SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS OCTOBER 30 (STATE 220704). HE UNDERSTANDS
THAT PROPOSAL MUST REST WITH JCAE FOR 30 TO 45 DAYS.

5. RE AMENDMENT US/IAEA AGREEMENT:

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HE EXPRESSED GOM CONCERN THAT PRESENT PROPOSAL TO OBTAIN
IAEA/GB ACTION AT FEBRUARY 1974 SESSION BE ADHERED TO LEAST
DELAY UNTIL SEPTEMBER GB SESSION BE INCURRED, EXPLAINING THAT
GOM HAS BEEN ADVISED BY GE THAT IF DELIVERY OF CONTAINER
VESSEL, ONCE FABRICATED, IS DELAYED, THE COMPANY MUST CHARGE
FOR STORAGE. THIS WOULD MEAN ADDITIONAL COST TO GOM WHICH THEY
ANXIOUS TO AVOID.

6. ADDITIONAL DETAILS RE OFFERS BY OTHER COUNTRIES SEPTEL.

7. EMBASSY COMMENT. THERE APPEARS NO DOUBLT THAT GOM IS WELL LAUNCHED ON ROAD TO USE OF NUCLEAR POWER FOR GENERATION OF ELECTRICITY, AND THE PRESENT WORLD PETROLEUM CRISIS HAS ONLY STRENGTHENED THEIR RESOLVE. THEY ALSO SEEM TO FEEL THAT THEIR RESPECTIVE DECISIONS CONCERNING UNITS ONE AND TWO WERE MOST TIMELY.

8. PLEASE ADVISE ESTIMATE OF WHEN CONGRESSIONAL ACTION EXPECTED.
MCBRIDE

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